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TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Examiner: Frank M. Lawrence
Group Art Unit: 1724
(703) 305-3602

FROM: Steven R. Scott

DATE: February 22, 2001

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover page): 3

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RE: Patent Application No. 09/004,897
Filed: 9 January 1998
Applicant(s): Burris
Title: Flowthrough Batch Liquid Purifier

Dear Examiner Lawrence:

In the proposed claim 1 revisions set forth below I have sought to make changes based on my thoughts with regard to the structure of the upflow chamber. In brief, I have tried to define the structure of the upflow chamber in terms of (1) the fluid flow rate produced by the pump (a certain volumetric liquid flow rate being characteristic/inherent to any pump/passageway combination) in combination with (2) the rate at which fluid rises in the flow chamber. In other words, the upflow chamber is sized and shaped so that the pump fills it up (i.e.-its liquid level rises) at a rate slower than bubbles rise in the liquid.

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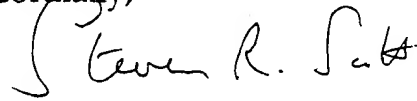
1. (Fourth Amended) In a batch liquid purifier having a batch of unpurified liquid mixed with an ozone-containing gas produced from a generator to produce a liquid/ozone mixture, wherein the mixture is conveyed through a passageway to produce a purified batch of liquid that can flow out of the purifier through a dispenser, an improvement comprising:

- a. a valve in the passageway [and configured to] preventing admission of untreated liquid into the passageway when the purifier is not operating;
- b. a pumping system that operates when the purifier is operating to admit untreated liquid to the passageway, to flow liquid through the passageway at a certain volumetric rate, and to mix the ozone-containing gas with the liquid flowing in the passageway to dissolve the ozone in the liquid;
- c. the liquid passageway downstream and adjacent to the mixing of the ozone-containing gas with the liquid being formed as an upflow chamber shaped and sized such that the volumetric rate of liquid flow through the passageway produced by the pumping system causes liquid entering the upflow chamber to rise in the upflow chamber at a certain rise rate, which certain rise rate is slower than the rate at which bubbles of the ozone-containing gas entrained in the liquid rise in the liquid [form bubbles that will rise at a rate greater than and to the level of a preceding flow of liquid rising in the upflow chamber at a rate less than that of the ozone-containing gas to cause the ozone-containing gas to contact any liquid that passed through the initial contact area prior to established flow of ozone-containing gas so that a leading volume of liquid flow is contacted with ozone early in its advance through the passageway]; and
- d. a portion of the liquid flow passageway between the upflow chamber and the dispenser configured to ensure sufficient contact between ozone and the

liquid to purify the liquid before it reaches the dispenser.

Please give me your thoughts.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven R. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Steven R. Scott